

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT  
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9  
Columbia River Compact  
October 27, 2000**

<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Review salmon stock status and consider non-Indian commercial fishing options.
<b>TAC:</b>	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) received a copy of this Fact Sheet.

## Management Guidelines

### *Endangered Species Act*

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
<b>Species - ESU</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b><u>Federally Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Chinook</u></b>		
Snake River Fall	Threatened	May 22, 1992
Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Chum</u></b>		
Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>		
Snake River	Threatened	October 17, 1997
Upper Columbia River	Endangered	October 17, 1997
Middle Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<b><u>Cutthroat Trout</u></b>		
Southwest Washington	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<b><u>Oregon State Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Coho</u></b>		
Lower Columbia	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 31, 2000.
- Lower Columbia River chum impacts in non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed 5% and are expected to be near 2%.

### **2000 Management Agreement**

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the

aggregate URB run. The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.

- The treaty Indian fall fishery will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

### ***State Guidelines***

- In May 2000 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided that all fisheries will be managed such that aggregate impacts not exceed a 13.3% harvest rate on wild coho salmon destined for Oregon tributaries of the Columbia River.
- Harvest rates on LRW fall chinook should not exceed 10% in ocean and Columbia River fisheries in accordance with Washington state's wild salmonid policy.

### ***Sturgeon Allocation***

- The Joint State Accord on 2000-2002 Sturgeon Management sets forth an annual harvestable number of 50,000 white sturgeon for lower Columbia River fisheries absent any significant update.
- Harvestable number is allocated 80% sport (40,000 fish) and 20% commercial (10,000 fish).

## **2000 Coho Stock Status**

- The preseason projection for Columbia River coho returns was 450,200 adults, including 253,600 early stock (highest since 1991) and 196,600 late stock (highest since 1991).

### ***Early Stock***

- Based on escapement to date and projected fishery catches, the 2000 early stock river mouth return is projected to be near 280,000 which is larger than the preseason projection of 254,000.
- Hatchery escapement goals have been achieved at all facilities.
- Clackamas River early stock wild coho passage is tracking well ahead of recent years with 1,985 adults passing North Fork Dam through October 26. Early stock passage is typically complete by the end of October.
- Sandy River wild coho returns to date are also tracking well ahead of recent years with 510 adults passing Marmot Dam through October 26. Passage typically peaks in October.
- Based on fisheries that have occurred to date and proposed fisheries, impacts on wild coho are not expected to exceed 13.1% for early stock and 10.3% for late stock.

### ***Late Stock***

- CPUE in Zones 1 and 2 was 70 during September 25-28, 55 on October 5, 106 during October 9-13, and 45 during October 16-20. Typically CPUE peaks in Week 42 (October 9-13).
- Historical relationships used to estimate late coho run size do not appear to be accurate for 2000.

- Through October 26 a total of 8,100 late stock coho have returned to Washington hatcheries.
- The late stock escapement goal of 15,200 is expected to be achieved.
- Clackamas River wild late stock coho typically enter the river beginning in late October and pass North Fork Dam during November through January.

## Commercial Fishery Updates

### ***Lower River Fisheries***

<b><i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery Update</i></b>					
Stock	Aug 4-5	Aug 2S	Sep 18-Oct. 13	Oct. 16-20	Oct. 23-27 Proj.
IJB	370	2,600	1,040		
BPH	120	480	0		
MCB	350	2,160	1,150		
LRH	550	300	100		
LRW	0	0	210		
LRB	0	220	250		
SAB	30	0	20		
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>5,830</i>	<i>3,340</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>55</i>
Coho	1	161	90,548	20,694	4,900
Chum	0	0	11	8	12
W. Sturgeon	2,357	301	1,989	1,001	800
G. Sturgeon	472	5	545	17	30

- An estimated 33,600 coho were landed in September fisheries which is similar to the preseason expectation of 35,000.
- Through October 25 an estimated 81,000 coho have been landed in October fisheries as compared to preseason expectation of 65,000 for the month of October.

<b><i>2000 Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Update</i></b>	
Fishery	Catch
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,282
Select Area winter/Spring/Summer Gillnet	500
August 3-4 Gillnet	2,357
Area 2S Gillnet (Aug 21-23)	301
Zones 4-5 Gillnet (Sept 19-20)	230
Select Area Fall Gillnet	161
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,553
Total Catch to Date (through October 25)	9,384

- White sturgeon catches through October 25 are estimated to be 9,400 fish which leaves 600 fish remaining on the 10,000 fish guideline.

### **Select Area Fisheries**

- The Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, Deep River, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough fisheries continue through the end of October. Steamboat Slough fishery ends on October 28.
- Season Total catch expectations were for 10,000 coho in Deep River and 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Steamboat Slough plus 53,000 coho and 1,000 chinook in Youngs Bay.

<b>Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fishery Update</b>					
	Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
Chinook	1,730	270	130	100	70
Coho	33,700	10,200	3,400	12,700	370
Chum	1	0	0	1	0
W. Sturgeon	90	60	9	0	1
G. Sturgeon	1	0	0	0	0

### **Fishery Proposals**

#### **Non-Indian Commercial Fishing Options**

<b>Proposed Coho/Sturgeon Season</b>	
Season:	7 AM - 7 PM Monday October 30 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5, except those areas from a line extending from the green Navigation Light 41 at the upper end of Cottonwood Island at right angle to the thread of the Columbia River to the Oregon shore upstream to a line projected from Warrior Rock to Red Buoy No. 4 thence to a fishing boundary marker on Bachelor Island.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Elokomina-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6" maximum mesh size restriction or 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size gill nets will be allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	500-1,500 coho <25 chinook <25 chum 500-800 white sturgeon

<b>Proposed Sturgeon Season</b>	
Season:	8 AM - 2 PM Monday October 30 (6 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Big Creek, Gnat Creek, Elokomina-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-B, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	300-600 white sturgeon

**Rationale:**

- ✓ Gear and area restrictions will minimize fall chinook impacts.
- ✓ All proposed fisheries would remain within ESA impact limits set for wild coho salmon destined for Oregon tributaries, URB fall chinook, and chum salmon.
- ✓ Some numbers of late stock hatchery coho are still available for harvest.
- ✓ Option 1 would allow for some coho catch and result in sturgeon catch that may exceed the 10,000 fish guideline.
- ✓ Option 2 would provide for sturgeon catch that would likely remain within the 20,000 fish guideline, but would eliminate any opportunity for coho.

Summary of Fishery Impacts								
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts		Total Steelhead	Wild Steelhead Impacts			
		No.	%		Group A Index		Group B Index	
					No.	%	No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries								
August C&S	225	165	0.1	2,660	400	0.6	60	0.7
Commercial	51,885	36,095	24.0	12,710	1,980	3.1	930	10.3
Late Fall C&S (Proj.)	220	180	0.1	3,000	630	0.6	210	2.3
Treaty Indian Total	52,330	36,440	24.16	18,370	3,010	4.7	1,200	13.3
Non-Indian Fisheries								
August Sturgeon Commercial	1,700	370		20	4		1	
August 2S Commercial	5,830	2,600		114	0		24	
September 18-October 13	3,300	1,040		23	2		2	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	1,840	40		4	1		0	
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Total)	6,200	1,100		54	0		2	
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	8,000	3,400		6,140	202		28	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	670	610		17,900	590		80	
October 16-20	170	80		8	1		2	
October 23-27 (Proj)	50	10		3	0		1	
Non-Indian Total to Date	27,760	9,250	6.13	24,281	801		142	
Proposed Fisheries	25	10		0	0		0	
Projected Non-Indian Total	27,785	9,260	6.14	24,281	801	1.25	141	1.55
Grand Total	80,115	45,700	30.31	42,651	3,811	5.6	1,342	14.9

**Next Compact Hearing**

- Additional Compacts are scheduled for December 18, 2000 at 10 AM at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver to consider winter smelt and sturgeon target fisheries, and for January 25, 2001 at 10 AM at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Portland to consider winter and spring fisheries plus miscellaneous regulations.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
October 27, 2000